

many victories, and his troops were probably superior in numbers.

On October the 3rd, 1137, the two armies came into action; the young Duke Roger, a gallant and headlong soldier, plunged with the vanguard upon the enemy's centre, and drove it back along the road to Siponto. The King led a second charge, but either owing to unexpected resistance or to unskilful handling his troops failed, and gave way; according to one account Roger was the first to fly, Duke Rainulf then hurled all his force upon the royalists, who were seized with utter panic; no quarter was observed, and 3000 of the defeated were left dead on the field, There, too, fighting by the side of the King, fell Sergius thirty-ninth Duke, and *Magister Militwn* of Naples, So the last prince of a house, that had been illustrious for two centuries died in the service of a prince whose family was unknown to the world a century before.*

A second Nocera had befallen Roger, But he was able to rally a few troops, and to ride unmolested over the mountains back into Salerno; while Rainulf, dismounted and kneeling, communicated the glad news to Bernard, in the

little village where the saint was
lodged,

Again Rainulf's victory had little
fruit, Roger

bided his time for Apulia; meanwhile
Naples

again suffered a siege; and Benevento
and Monte

Cassino were won back,

* Schipa, // *ducat» M Napoli, Arch, stnr, nap., 1894,*
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